

We claim:

1. A method for characterizing the risk of coronary artery disease for an individual, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining levels of the individual's LDL-cholesterol (LDL-C), HDL-cholesterol (HDL-C) and serum total bilirubin (bilirubin);

(b) comparing a ratio of  $\text{LDL-C}/(\text{HDL-C} + \text{bilirubin})$  to a predetermined level for that ratio; and,

(c) characterizing from the comparison the risk of coronary artery disease for the individual.

2. The method for determining the likelihood that a patient now has severe coronary artery disease according to claim 1, wherein the levels making up the ratio are weighted so that the ratio is a whole number.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100